

THE FALCON FLYER

October 18, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Street School Families,

We had the opportunity at Curriculum Nights to speak a bit about the achievement of students here at Floral Street. As we've said in this space before, we have great kids who come to school so ready to learn – your support is critical to that success.

One month later, we've had opportunities each day to observe *in school* what makes much of that achievement possible. Even with the most prepared, most willing students in the world, achievement is no accident. In fact, the research base is very clear that the key to achievement is **consistent, high-quality instruction**. When we visit classrooms at Floral Street, this is what we see. When we talk with teachers at Floral Street, this is what we hear them discussing.

- *Each day, teachers work to tailor their instruction to each child in their class, meeting the needs of those who are struggling to those who have already mastered the content and are ready for more.*
- *They work to engage their students, to enliven a true desire to learn in each student.*
- *They persist when goals and objectives are not met, sending the message to students that they can do it and we are here to make sure.*
- *They seek out each other, not letting pride or ego get in the way, to get advice and ideas about how to continuously improve what they are doing.*

It is truly exciting to be able to walk from classroom to classroom here at Floral Street and to see this in action, to see the high levels of skill being used to deliver all instruction. Even the instruction that our teachers are *not* satisfied with is at a high level – the results bear that out.

This evening, four Floral Street teachers in particular will be recognized for their achievements as skillful instructors and trusted colleagues. Four teachers have achieved professional status this fall, a recognition that they possess the skill and commitment that meets the high standards of the Shrewsbury Public Schools. We hope you'll join us in congratulating **Lindsey Borraccino, Erin Largess, Kristy Ralys, and Ani Salerno**. The ceremony will include the following specific recognition:

Lindsey Borraccino – Grade Four

Ms. Borraccino received her Bachelor's degree from Bridgewater State College and her Master's degree from Anna Maria College. Ms. Borraccino is a skillful instructional practitioner and is highly reflective about her practice – she has high standards and expectations for herself as well as her students. She creates a learning environment with and for her students that is always aimed at maximizing their progress. In addition to her work with students, Lindsey is a particularly skillful facilitator of collaborative work with her colleagues. She has served as a student council advisor, a member of our social committee and *Floral Goes Green* committee.

Erin Largess – Grade Three

Ms. Largess is a graduate of Shrewsbury High School and received her Bachelor's degree from Worcester State College and her Master's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Erin is an exceptionally skillful instructional practitioner in all academic areas. Her

students experience significant growth in both academic skills and in their work ethic and character. Erin seeks out continuous professional improvement, including recently completing the MESPA/ Northeastern University leadership program for principal licensure. In addition to her teaching, she serves the school as a member of the EIT team and the district as a high school basketball coach.

Kristy Ralys – Grade Four

Mrs. Ralys received her Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam and her Master's degree from the State University of New York at Albany. Mrs. Ralys is a skillful instructor, and supports the needs of all diverse learners through highly targeted instruction, skillful collaboration with colleagues, and a true student-centeredness in all that she does. Mrs. Ralys is a true life-long learner, and pursues numerous opportunities to strengthen her pedagogical and content knowledge. She recently completed the Fulcrum Institute, an intensive graduate program in science through Tufts University.

Ani Salerno – Grade One

Ms. Salerno received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. As a first-grade teacher, Ms. Salerno creates a classroom learning environment where students are invariably deeply engaged in learning activities and capable of significant independence. Her skillful instruction and tireless work ethic have helped to support high levels of achievement in her students, across a range of diverse learning needs. Her high expectations for all students are communicated in a positive way that helps students to exceed their goals. Ms. Salerno serves as a member of the Faculty Council and continuously seeks out other collaborative leadership opportunities.

Should you have opportunity, please share your own recognition and appreciation with us and with these teachers!

Todd Curtis
Principal
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Lisa McCubrey
Assistant Principal
lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Important Notes:

PTO

Reminder: Tomorrow night, Tuesday, October 19, 2010, from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the Media Center, the PTO is hosting a forum for State Representative candidates Matt Beaton (R) and Kevin Byrne (D) to provide an overview of their backgrounds, qualifications and stance on the issues and forum attendees will have an opportunity to ask the candidates questions. The election for the seat of State Representative is on Tuesday, November 2nd. We hope you can join the PTO for this event. Childcare **for school-aged children** will be provided.

Please join us at the Floral Family Fun Fair on Saturday, November 13th from 10 am – 3 pm. This event is jam-packed with activities and fun. There will be games & prizes, a market/craft fair, Scholastic Book Fair, a silent auction and brown bag raffle with over 100 items. The Floral Street School PTO will also be selling new baseball shirts, sweatshirts, hats and fleece jackets featuring the school mascot, the Falcon. Our Special Guest will be Twister, the mascot of the Worcester Tornadoes from Noon – 2 pm. Bring your camera and have fun!

The Floral Street School PTO is looking for volunteers to help out at the Fair. It takes many

volunteer hours to hold our annual fair and this is one of the largest (and most fun!) fundraisers that we hold during the year. Please look for the flyer coming home in backpacks about ways to help make this fair a success and please email Colene Kuzmission at colkuz@yahoo.com if you are able to volunteer an hour or two at the Fair. Thank you!

From the Nurse

If you need to contact Mrs. Sorenson, the nurse here at Floral Street, please use the following email address: ssorenson@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us . Thank you!

The Elementary Lunch Menu can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/department/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Dates:

November 2	Parent Conferences/State Election (No School)
November 3 (6:30 pm)	Chorus Concert: <i>Herring, Ralys, Spangenberg</i>
November 4 (6:30 pm)	Chorus Concert: <i>Borraccino, Edgren, Richard/Yeager</i>
November 9 (6:30 pm)	Chorus Concert: <i>Beall, Morgan, Ross</i>
November 11	No School – Veterans’ Day
November 24 - 26	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation
December 13	Trimester 1 Report Cards issued
December 24 - January 2	No School – December Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at:

http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf